


IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1-7 and ADD new claim 8, in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~Peripheral~~ A peripheral unit management system for ~~managing to manage~~ a plurality of peripheral units by a peripheral unit manager via a network, wherein each of the plurality of peripheral units has ~~a serial number and a unique ID number to distinguish it from other peripheral units and is connected to the network for communication between the manager and the peripheral units~~ property information and address information to access the peripheral unit on the network, comprising:

 a reading unit reading the property information and the address information corresponding to each of the peripheral units by communicating with each of the peripheral units;

a determining unit for determining whether or not one of the peripheral units has been replaced by communicating with the respective peripheral units and reading respective serial numbers and ID numbers of the peripheral units based on the property information of the peripheral units when detecting that the address information of a peripheral unit is new, and

an obtaining unit for obtaining new data of a the peripheral unit, and storing the new data related to the property information and the address information of the peripheral unit when the determining unit determines that the peripheral unit has been replaced, or reusing storing the data being accumulated in another for the peripheral unit with the new address information after setting the property information to correspond to the new address information when the determining unit determines that the peripheral unit has not been replaced.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~Peripheral~~ The peripheral unit management system according to claim 1, wherein each peripheral unit comprises a main body having a first recording medium that records ~~a the property information~~ serial number and a board having a second recording medium that records the address information, wherein an ID number, the board can be inserted to and removed from the main body and performs a connecting function

to the network ~~thereby enabling it to~~ enable each peripheral unit to transmit the property information and the address information ~~serial number and the ID number over the network, and when the board is replaced, the management system reads the serial number and the ID number and determines whether or not the main body of the peripheral unit has been replaced or not.~~

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~Peripheral~~ The peripheral unit management system according to claim 1, wherein each peripheral unit comprises a main body not having a recording medium that records ~~a the property information~~ serial number and a board having a first recording medium that records ~~a serial number~~ the property information and a second recording medium that records ~~an the address information~~ ID number, wherein the board ~~can be~~ is inserted to and removed from the main body and performs a connecting function to the network ~~thereby enabling it to enable each peripheral unit to transmit the serial number the property information and the address information~~ and the address information ~~and the ID number over the network, and when the board is replaced, the management system reads the serial number~~ address information recorded in the second recording medium after the serial number has been set by an operational panel either of its own or of the peripheral unit and reads the ID number of the peripheral unit, and determines whether or not the main body of the peripheral unit has been replaced.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~Peripheral~~ A peripheral unit management method for managing to manage a plurality of peripheral units by a peripheral unit manager via a network, wherein each of the plurality of peripheral units has ~~a serial number and a unique ID number to distinguish it from other peripheral units and is connected to the network for communication between the manager and the peripheral units~~ corresponding property information of the peripheral unit and address information to access the peripheral unit over the network, comprising: ~~the steps of~~

communicating with each of the respective peripheral units and reading respective the serial numbers corresponding property information and the address information ~~and ID numbers~~ corresponding to each of the peripheral units;

determining whether or not one of the peripheral units has been replaced based on the ~~respective serial numbers and the ID numbers~~ property information of the peripheral units when detecting that the address information of the peripheral unit is new ~~of the peripheral units;~~

obtaining new data of a the peripheral unit, and storing the data related to the new

property information and address information of the peripheral unit when it is determined~~determining~~ that the peripheral unit has been replaced, or storing the in the determining step, and reusing data having been accumulated in another the peripheral unit with the new address information after setting the property information to correspond to the new address information when it is determineddetermining that the peripheral unit has not been replaced ~~in the determining step.~~

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~Peripheral~~ The peripheral unit management method according to claim 4, wherein each peripheral unit comprises a main body having a first recording medium that records a the serial number~~property information~~ and a board having a second recording medium that records an the address information~~ID number~~, wherein the board ~~can be~~is inserted to and removed from the main body and performs a connecting function to the network ~~thereby enabling it to enable each peripheral unit to transmit the serial number and the ID number~~ property information and the address information over the network, and the method further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

reading the serial number~~property information~~ and the ID number~~address information~~ when the board is replaced, ~~and~~

determining whether or not the main body of the peripheral unit has been replaced ~~or not.~~

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~Peripheral~~ The peripheral unit management method according to claim 4, wherein each peripheral unit comprises a main body not having a recording medium that records a the serial number~~property information~~ and a board having a first recording medium that records a the serial number~~property information~~ and a second recording medium that records an the ID number~~address information~~, wherein the board ~~can be~~is inserted to and removed from the main body and performs a connecting function to the network ~~thereby enabling it to enable each peripheral unit to transmit the serial number and the ID number~~ property information and the address information over the network, and the method further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

reading the ~~serial number and the ID number~~property information and the address information of the peripheral unit, after the serial number has been set by an operational panel ~~either of its own or of the peripheral unit when the board is replaced, and~~

determining whether or not the main body of the peripheral unit has been replaced.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~Recording~~ A recording medium readable by a computer and used for a peripheral unit management method ~~for managing to manage~~ a plurality of peripheral units by a peripheral unit manager via a network, wherein each of the plurality of peripheral units has ~~a serial number and a unique ID number~~ corresponding property information of the peripheral unit and address information to access the peripheral unit over the network ~~to distinguish it from other peripheral units and~~ each peripheral unit is connected to the network for ~~communication to communicate~~ between the manager and the peripheral units, said medium having a program recorded thereon for making the computer execute ~~the steps of:~~

communicating with each of the respective peripheral units and reading respective the serial numbers corresponding property information and the address information corresponding to numbers ~~each of the peripheral units;~~

determining whether or not one of the peripheral units has been replaced based on the ~~respective serial numbers and the ID numbers~~ property information of the peripheral units when detecting that the address information of the peripheral unit is new of the peripheral units;

obtaining new data of a peripheral unit, and storing the data related to the new property information and address information of the peripheral unit when the determining unit determined determining that the peripheral unit has been replaced, or storing the, and reusing data being accumulated in another the peripheral unit with the new address information after setting the property information to correspond to the new address information when the determining unit determined ~~determining~~ that the peripheral unit has not been replaced.

8. (NEW) The peripheral unit management system according to claim 1, wherein the property information comprises the serial number of the corresponding peripheral unit.